

HEART TO HEART

News from the Children's Cardiomyopathy Foundation - December 2017



CCF Announces 2018 Research Grant Recipients

CCF will fund four new studies on pediatric cardiomyopathy for 2018. Through CCF's national [research grant program](#), \$196,172 will be awarded to investigators Steven Greenway, M.D. of University of Calgary, Alberta, Canada; Amy Kontorovich, M.D., Ph.D. of the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, New York, N.Y.; Shelley Miyamoto, M.D. of University of Colorado, Denver, Colo; and Kathleen Simpson, M.D. of University of Washington, St. Louis, Mo.

The selected studies cover a broad range of research topics focused on different forms of cardiomyopathy and include "Modeling Novel Therapeutics for DCMA: A Mitochondrial Cardiomyopathy," "Elucidating the Genetics of Myocarditis-Related Cardiomyopathy," "Circulating MicroRNA in Genotype-Positive Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy," and "Distinction of Serum Biomarkers in Heart Failure Between Children and Adults with Dilated Cardiomyopathy."

CCF's one-year grant program continues to be a vital source of seed funding for researchers to collect preliminary data and test their research hypotheses before applying to the National Institutes of Health for long-term funding.

[View 2018 research abstracts](#)



CCF Announces New Medical Advisors

CCF is pleased to announce the appointment of three distinguished cardiomyopathy experts to its medical advisory board. They will join the board's current five advisors in providing medical and scientific guidance on the Foundation's research, education, family support, and awareness programs. All three have been involved in clinical care and research on pediatric cardiomyopathy, leading to numerous peer-reviewed journal publications and presentations at national meetings.

Shelley D. Miyamoto, M.D. is associate professor and Millisor chair in pediatric heart disease at the University of Colorado and director of the cardiomyopathy program at the Children's Hospital Colorado. She is a member of multiple American Heart Association committees including the leadership council for the Cardiovascular Disease in the Young committee. In the past, she has secured research funding from the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute and American Heart Association, and she has received two scientific patents associated with her pediatric heart failure research.

Joseph Rossano, M.D., M.S. is chief of the division of cardiology at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia and medical director of the pediatric heart failure and transplant program. He is also associate professor of pediatrics at the Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania. Dr. Rossano has been involved in numerous multi-center studies funded by the National Institutes of Health, including studies with the Pediatric Cardiomyopathy Registry. He is an active member of several national scientific committees and currently serves as a committee chair for the American Heart Association and the NIH-funded PediMacs Ventricular Assist Device registry.

James D. Wilkinson, M.D., M.P.H. is a research professor and the director of the center for clinical and translational research in the department of pediatrics at the Vanderbilt University School of Medicine. Dr. Wilkinson has received numerous teaching awards for mentoring medical and graduate students. Dr. Wilkinson also has significant experience in NIH-funded multi-site research studies in children and was an investigator with the Pediatric Cardiomyopathy Registry (PCMR) study group since 2004. From 2004-2017, he served as the director of the administrative coordinating center at Wayne State University of Medicine for the PCMR.

[View CCF Medical Advisors](#)



Update on 2018 CCF Webinars

On January 8, 2018, Jeffery Towbin, M.D., of LeBonheur Children's Hospital, will be a featured guest on CCF's expert webinar series. Dr. Towbin, chief of pediatric cardiology, is a leading pediatric cardiomyopathy specialist, and he will cover "Developments in Research & Treatment in Pediatric Cardiomyopathy." This is the second educational presentation in a two-part series on pediatric cardiomyopathy. Dr. Towbin's first presentation, held on September 21, is available on [CCF Connect](#) along with other webinars archived for CCF members.

Additional webinars and expert Q&A sessions on CCF Connect are planned for 2018. Topics will include: considerations in genetic testing, heart transplantation, transitioning from pediatric to adult care, developments in medical management, and emotional support for families. CCF Connect is a private online community open to registered parents, diagnosed individuals, professionals, and family members and friends interested in learning more about pediatric cardiomyopathy.

[Register for webinar](#)

[Register as a CCF Member](#)



INSPIRE HOPE

GIVE TODAY · CLICK HERE



Children's Cardiomyopathy Foundation

Toll free 866.808.CURE

info@childrenscardiomyopathy.org

childrenscardiomyopathy.org



© 2017 Children's Cardiomyopathy Foundation. All Rights Reserved.